REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-24, 26, 27 and 29-41 are pending in the application; of these claims, 5, 11-13, 24, 30-32 and 41 are withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowable subject matter in claims 20-23, 26, 27, 29, 33-37 and 40. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-4 and 7 and amended claims 19 and 38 to recite "cover" rather than "covered," both in accordance with suggestions made by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been amended to include a stent with a distal end and a proximal end to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 for lack of an antecedent basis. Support for the amendment to claim 14 is found in claim 20 as originally filed and on page 12, lines 9-12 of the specification. Additionally claim 33 has been amended to change the incorrect term "stat" to "stent." Claims 2-4 and 7 have accordingly been canceled and claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 7. With claim 1 as amended directed to allowable subject matter, dependent claims 8 and 9 should no longer be objectionable and claims 14, 17-19 and 39 also should be allowable because they depend from an allowable claim. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants earnestly believe that claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 17-23, 26, 27, 29, 33-40 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the application be passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-4, 7, 15 and 16 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Thrice Amended) A stent assembly, comprising:

an intravascular stent;

a cover material surrounding the stent and having a first section and a second section, the first and second sections forming an overlap portion; [and]

the overlap portion being configured so that the first section and the second section are slidable with respect to each other along the longitudinal axis of the stent[.];

wherein the cover material has a distal end and a proximal end;

and the cover material distal end and proximal end are attached to the stent;

wherein the overlap portion is positioned between the distal end and the proximal end of the cover material; and

wherein the first section has a proximal end and a distal end and the first section is shorter than the overall length of the stent.

8. The assembly of claim [7]1, wherein the second section has a proximal end and a distal end and the second section is shorter than the overall length of the stent.

14. The assembly of claim [2]1, wherein the stent has a distal end and a proximal end and wherein the cover material is attached to the stent at the stent distal end and the stent proximal end.

19. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover[ed] material has a thickness in the range of 0.0005 to 0.010 inch.

33. The assembly of claim 21, wherein the cover material is attached to the [stat] stent at the stent distal end and the stent proximal end.

38. The assembly of claim 20, wherein the cover[ed] material has a thickness in the range of 0.0005 to 0.010 inch.